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Rockefeller Family Holdings Touch Every Economic Sphere

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The question of how much money Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller is worth seems like quibbling over mere millions because, in reality, the Rockefeller family together exercises awesome economic power, so vast that it dwarfs Nelson's individual fortune.

The Vice President-designate says he is worth \$62 million. Make it \$182 million with two of his trust funds. Maybe there is even more. It hardly matters.

Congress, which must confirm him, may find the Rockefeller nomination poses a much deeper question about power in America—whether the complex

and largely hidden economic power which the Rockefeller family jointly holds, which Nelson shares, which stretches across the nation's economy, and the world's, shall be twinned with the second highest political office in the land or even with the presidency itself.

Oil, banking, airlines, real estate, insurance, retailing and communications, hotels and supermarkets, electronics and mutual funds, coffee beans and chickens. The power of the family fortune is beyond measure, too, a nexus of ownership and leverage that is greater than the sum of its parts. It is more powerful than most foreign governments, more impressive than the RCA

Building which the family built, richer than the Rockefeller who started it all 80 years ago, Nelson's grandfather, John D. the First.

If Nelson Rockefeller becomes Vice President or events make him President someday, he will bump into his family's wealth on practically every major public issue.

As President, he would have the last word on chartering overseas air routes, yet his family's bank is the largest stockholder in Northwest Airlines, which flies the Pacific. The bank holds major stakes in six competing airlines, not

counting Eastern which Nelson's brother Laurance launched.

If President Ford wants oil prices held down, he could speak to the Veep who could talk to his family. They control the largest bloc of Exxon stock and have a substantial presence in three other major oil companies: Mobil, Amoco, and Standard of California.

If "Vice President" Rockefeller tours the Middle East, he may find tracks in the sand left by his brother David who, as chairman of Chase Manhattan, the family bank, has been consulting the Arab sheikhs on where to invest their money—the bulging fortune from their oil wells.

If "President" Rockefeller asks the CIA for intelligence on the Soviet Union or China, he could take comfort in the knowledge that the spy-plane reconnaissance photos were taken with Rockefeller-made electronic gizmos—by Itek.

If he wants to check on conditions in Latin America, the stomping ground of his youth, he can do it through his own personal company—IBEC, or International Basic Economy Corp.—now run by his son Rodman. It's a mini-conglomerate with affiliates in 30 countries and sales this year of more than \$300 million—housing and supermarkets, mutual funds and coffee marketing, poultry and canned fish.

If the television networks give "Vice President" Rockefeller a bad time, he might turn to a friend at Chase Manhattan. According to a Senate subcommittee's study of corporate ownership, the bank controls respectable minority stakes in NBC, not to mention modest bites of The New York Times and Time-Life Inc.